

Deubener "Shopping Bags" Collection

S358

1887-1967

1 folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, February 2014

Biographical Note:

Both born in Germany, Henry J. Deubener and Elizabeth Kloeffer wed on December 24, 1887 in DeKalb County, Indiana. According to the Social Security Death Index, their son Walter Henry Deubener was born April 16, 1885. When Henry signed his will on Feb. 7, 1892, he left his estate to his wife, Anna Elizabeth, his son Walter H., and his two daughters Anna E. and Mabel E. On March 17, 1892, Henry Deubener held a public sale at his residence in Smithfield Township. On March 30, 1893, Joseph A. Frederick was appointed guardian of Walter H. Deubener, who was a minor.

Walter Henry Deubener married Lydia in 1908 and together they ran the S.S. Kruesge grocery store on Seventh Street in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1920, the census taker listed them as living in St. Paul Ward 7, Ramsey, Minnesota. Walter was 34 and Lydia was 29. Because customers bought only as many groceries as they could carry, Walter, in 1918, invented a paper shopping bag with string reinforcing the bottom and running up the sides through holes and over the top to create handles. He filed for a patent in 1927 and was issued Patent number 1713747 on May 21, 1929.

An article in the November 1927 issue of Scientific American about successful inventors is entitled "How a Piece of String, Plus a Paper Bag and an Idea, Equaled a Nation-Wide Business." On May 15, 1935, an editorial published on his 50th birthday shows him as president of Deubener's Shopping Bag, Inc., Garfield Park, Indianapolis, Indiana. Another address stamped on the 2nd edition of the editorial give the address of 204 South Griggs Street, St. Paul 5, Minn. Walter died March 29, 1980.

Source:

Information Found within Collection. Ancestry.com and Wikipedia accessed on 2/27/2014.

Scope and Content:

This collection has documents from the Deubener Family, sometimes spelled Deubner, beginning with the marriage certificate of Henry J. Deubener and Elizabeth Kloeffer in 1887. There are six documents pertaining to Henry, until 1892 when he died. The next document, a reprint from Scientific American magazine, is dated 1927. The last seven documents pertain to Walter and his invention of the shopping bag. They cover the time period of 1927 to 1967.

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Collection Inventory Item Listing:

Deubener's "Shopping Bags" Collection

Date	
1887	Marriage License of Henry J. Deubener and Elizabeth Kloeffer
1988	Release of Mortgage given by Henry J. Deubener
1892	Four documents: Henry's will, notice of auction, Sale Bill, and Guardian's Deed
1927	Scientific American magazine article published in November (2 copies)
1935	"This Card, Only Once in a Lifetime," editorial by W. H. Deubener, on his 50 th birthday (2 copies)
1948.	"30 Years of Reliable Service" brochure for Deubener's Shopping Bags
1967	Post card from Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Deubener, Lake George, Minnesota
n.d.	Ad for Deubeners Shopping Bag Co., Indianapolis, Ind., and Heavy Lug Bag Co., Industrial Station, St. Paul, Minn.

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1 folder.
Collection Dates:	1887-1967
Provenance:	Walter Henry Deubener, May 7, 1969
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